Committee Activities

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Committee Activities

Authors
Maureen H. Donovan, Yasuko Makino, Sungha Kim, Mark Tam, Karl Lo, and Paul P. W. Cheng
COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

I. 1988 Election Results

From the slate of candidates distributed to the CEAL membership early in 1988, the following people were elected to fill vacancies of the Chairperson and on the Executive Group:

Chairperson
Thomas Lee (Indiana) 1988-1991

Executive Group
C. P. Chen (Berkeley) 1988-1991

Continuing Members
Min-chih Chou (Cornell) 1986-1989
Maureen H. Donovan (Ohio State) 1986-1989
(former chair)
Eiji Yutani (San Diego) 1987-1990

Retiring Members
Kevin Lin (Texas) 1985-1988
Richard Wang (San Diego) 1985-1988

II. Report of the 1988 Plenary Session

The CEAL Plenary Session was held in Parlors 7-9 of the Ballroom at the San Francisco Hilton Hotel and Towers on Thursday, March 24, 1988. The meeting was opened at 9:00 a.m. by the Chairperson, Karl Lo. He noted that during the past three years he had the great honor to serve CEAL and thanked all for that opportunity. During that time there were many changes due to external driving forces and internal factors. Externally the economic prosperity in East Asia has meant that East Asia is producing many more publications in better quality. Also, the high technology in the region has had a great impact on information transfer and exchange. American libraries at the same time have suffered an unprecedented loss of purchasing power, with 50% loss in Japan and 30% in Taiwan. Other areas which do not evaluate currency against the dollar have still faced local inflation resulting in increasing book prices. We have also seen improvements in CJK technologies. The cost of a CJK terminal has come down to a level few could have predicted even five years ago. CEAL and its members have responded well to these challenges. Recently there have been some initiatives regarding staff training and exchanges of personnel with other countries. The University of Washington will sponsor a summer institute for East Asian librarians and the University of Illinois will offer a training program for Japanese studies librarians. Recently some initiatives to address public services issues have begun. Tim Connor will make a report on some of the problems we face in this area and present some possible solutions. One further area that should be addressed in the future is the situation regarding funding for East Asian collections.

Before leaving office Mr. Lo acknowledged the hard work of the Subcommittee heads, the Executive Group, and many others who made contributions during his term of office. Richard Howard was extremely generous in giving advice and in training him in how to handle all the complicated AAS paperwork. Maureen Donovan has kept the minutes at the annual meetings.
Eugene Wu, Warren Tsuneishi, and T. H. Tsien all made many contributions. Finally, he thanked Masato Matsui for opening his hotel room to lost souls during the annual meeting.

The finances of CEAL are in good shape. As of March 1, 1988 a balance of $9,748.54 remained in the CEAL account. Also, $514.35 was in the ACLS travel account.

After announcing the results of the election (see above), Mr. Lo introduced each of the Subcommittee chairs who reported on the activities of their subcommittees and announced the agendas for their meetings. Raymond Tang and Donald Shively then made some announcements regarding local arrangements.

Following a short break, Tim Connor (Harvard) made a report on public service issues in East Asian libraries. To prepare the report he contacted twenty people at fifteen of the largest East Asian collections and asked them what problems, suggestions, etc., they considered to be important in the public services area. Due to time restrictions (1 1/2 weeks) not everyone was able to respond. However, those who did were enthusiastic about including public services in future CEAL programs. The major issue addressed was interlibrary loan. Inadequate citations, bad romanization, lack of characters on forms and other factors often lead to unacceptable delays in providing interlibrary loans. There was a consensus that the process worked better if the East Asian librarians do their own interlibrary loans and deal directly with each other. For example, if a request for an East Asian item goes to the central library at Harvard, it takes additional time for the request to be forwarded to Harvard-Yenching. Furthermore, even minor typographical errors can turn a citation into alphabet soup.

Mr. Connor proposed to send a checklist to each CEAL member, tabulate the information and report back. The information gathered would concern how each institution processes loans, how the charges work, what restrictions apply to various types of materials, and the limits that might be set on photocopying certain types of books. The information that is collected would allow each library to know what to expect in dealing with interlibrary loans. Hopefully, more uniform practices might be developed once all this information is made available. He will communicate with CEAL members about this in Spring 1989. Frank Shulman raised a question about the handbook that would result from this effort and stressed that it should be made available to libraries without CEAL members from which interlibrary loan requests might also be generated.

Andrew Wang (OCLC) next made a report on recent developments. In January 1987 the CJK service was offered to libraries and already there are sixty libraries using it. Unique CJK records in the system now number 240,000 of which about 100,000 included vernacular characters. OCLC is now loading LC records continuously. Mr. Wang has been traveling extensively to demonstrate the system. In August 1987 he went to the British Library where he showed the system to a meeting of East Asian librarians from all over Europe. In October 1987 he was invited to the opening of the new building at the National Library of China where he was the only person from outside China to make a presentation. In December 1987 he was invited by the Japanese Ministry of Education to participate in a conference dealing with the internal exchange codes of CJK programs and problems of international information exchange. He has just returned from Taiwan where tests of the conversion of Chinese MARC records into OCLC format have just concluded. About 70,000 records are ready to be loaded into the OCLC system in the near future. In China seven libraries, including the National Library of China, are in the preliminary stages of discussions about setting up a machine-readable data base. Plans are moving forward for loading Japan MARC into OCLC with the Library of Congress serving as a conversion agency. These plans are being coordinated with Kinokuniya and the National Diet Library. Some Australian libraries are also very interested in the CJK program. In Europe the Staatsbibliothek in West Berlin, which has the largest Chinese collection in Europe, will be joining OCLC soon. There is also a growing number of users in Japan, including both Keio University and Waseda University. Recently, an official from the Ministry of Education in Japan visited OCLC to discuss potential
cooperation between their national network and OCLC. OCLC has been actively pursuing cooperation with librarians from all over the world. In 1987 as part of the International Librarians Training Program, seven librarians from Japan, Hong Kong, and Taiwan have come to OCLC.

Karen Smith-Yoshimura, Program Officer and CJK Specialist at the Research Libraries Group, Inc., reported on recent developments at RLG. RLG's East Asian Studies program promotes the goals of the organization while focusing on the concerns of the twenty-six members of the program. RLIN serves not only RLG's eighty-eight members but also hundreds of libraries and individuals who subscribe through the Cooperative Library Agency for Systems and Services (CLASS).

By February 29, 1988 the total number of RLIN records containing CJK scripts exceeded 350,000, with records from the Library of Congress representing 24% of the total. Each month an average of 3,600 original records for titles not yet in the RLIN data base are entered by RLG libraries, with the Library of Congress contributing roughly half of these and RLG member libraries adding the other half. In October 1987 RLG ran a count of the number of titles, not records, in the data base. At that time the breakdown by language was: Japanese, 182,773; Chinese, 179,805; Korean, 31,988; for a total number of 394,566 titles. Since then, approximately 18,000 original titles have been added, for a current total of approximately 412,000 East Asian titles. One of the goals of the East Asian Program Committee is not only to increase the number of titles cataloged, but also to uphold the high quality of the cataloging. To do this, recommendations and guidelines to promote more consistent practices are prepared and discussed at meetings of the East Asian Cataloging Subcommittee of RLG.

The RLG East Asian Program Committee seeks to identify and exploit opportunities to increase collection interdependence among member institutions. The East Asian conspectus, which systematically measures members' holdings within 153 subject descriptions, has been used to assess collecting responsibilities and shifting collection interests. On behalf of the consortium, individual members have agreed to maintain research level collections in forty-nine low-priority fields of East Asian studies. Of particular interest is a cooperative approach to acquiring Japanese serials and monographic sets which have become very expensive.

In the area of cooperative preservation, the RLG East Asian Microfilming Project funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Henry Luce Foundation, is now in its final year. Six RLG institutions and the Library of Congress have been filming endangered Chinese-language materials published between 1880 and 1949. In this project, approximately 4,000 Chinese monographs, serials, and newspapers will have been filmed and cataloged. Other projects may be forthcoming in the near future.

Efforts are being made to enrich the RLIN data base through retrospective conversion. One project covering Buddhism, Japanese language and literature, and Chinese economics is currently being proposed. The East Asian Program Committee also identifies and reports to RLG sources of East Asian records that would benefit scholarship. Two sets of resource records currently being investigated are: 1) the data base containing bibliographic and holdings information for all Japanese government documents published from the early Meiji up to 1980 held by Berkeley and the Hoover Institution which was used to publish A Checklist of Japanese Government Publications, and 2) the Union List of Scholarly Publications in the Japanese Language, a data base of over 40,000 titles created by the National Center for Science Information System (NACSIS) in Tokyo. In October 1987 RLG developed a proposal to support creation of an International Union Catalog of Chinese Rare Books in RLIN. If approved, RLG would acquire and load into RLIN 13,000 records of Chinese rare books held by the National Central Library; Princeton would also create records in RLIN for its 1,880 Chinese rare book titles.
Loading East Asian bibliographic data requires overcoming differences among national MARC formats and converting code values assigned to CJK scripts. RLG has developed table-driven software that has proven to be extremely flexible in accommodating variations in MARC records from more than two dozen different sources. Also, the RLIN CJK Thesaurus provides conversion tables for standard character codes. Last year, LC's Network Development and MARC Standards Office prepared supporting documentation to submit the RLIN East Asian Character Code (REACC) to the National Information Standards Organization. This is currently out for a ballot vote. As of January 31, 1988, Beatrice Ohta, Thesaurus Administrator at the Library of Congress, reported adding 3,200 Korean readings to the RLIN CJK Thesaurus character data base, as well as correcting a few dozen Wade-Giles readings.

In October 1987 RLG established an electronic bulletin board for quick exchange of information among members. In June 1987 Yale became the first NACO participant to contribute authority headings directly to the Library of Congress online using the RLIN authorities system. Through early March 1988 Yale had submitted 335 Chinese and Japanese authorities records over the RLIN-LC link. Finally, the RLG Multi-Script Workstation (MSW) is now nearing completion. The MSW will support all non-Roman scripts and RLIN functions on personal computers meeting specified configuration requirements. RLG is simplifying the current CJK input method in a way that will not require retraining or "unlearning" by the current user community and that will allow for future implementation of alternate input methods. Downloading of records (including CJK and other non-Roman) onto disk has been programmed and is being tested. Workstation functions, such as CJK word-processing, will allow users to manipulate the contents of CJK records downloaded from RLIN into text. The Multi-Script Workstation should become available soon.

Jack Cain (Udas) next presented an overview of recent Udas growth and progress. At present, over 500 institutions, members of consortia, and government agencies, representing over 2,000 libraries in Canada, the United States, and Japan, maintain user-owned data bases through Udas facilities. The CATalogue Support Service (CATSS) is a large and highly complex set of software modules which support, in online mode, many of the technical processing functions of libraries. It allows users to build their own separate data bases of cataloging records. A growing customer base in Japan made it desirable to develop Japan CATSS by modifying a replicated Western CATSS system to process Japanese data. Originally developed as a prototype in August 1986 at the time of the IFLA convention, Japan CATSS became fully operational as of June 1, 1987. At present thirty-five to forty libraries in Japan are using Udas through its representative in Japan, Maruzen Company, Ltd., and ten libraries are using Japan CATSS. By developing a separate Japanese system, rather than integrating the processing of Japanese into the existing Western CATSS system, Udas is following the Asian and European tradition of separate catalogs for separate scripts. Japan CATSS follows the Japan/MARC format which has been developed by the National Diet Library in Tokyo. All access points are entered in three forms: *katakana*, romanized (*kunrei-shiki*), and original Japanese form. Japan/MARC records issued by the National Diet Library are included as a source file, including about 450,000 records issued since 1977. To use this system, any standard Japanese personal computer, Japanese telecommunications software, and a regular modem are needed. Author, title, and subject access is provided and dialogue can be conducted in either Japanese or English. A translation program for subject headings to convert Japanese to English and English to Japanese is being developed. Mr. Cain also announced the times when the Japan CATSS demonstration would be held in the convention hotel.

Jack Cain next reported on the International Conference on Scholarly Information held in Tokyo on December 8 through 11, 1987. The Udas report on the proceedings of that conference is located in the Meetings and Conferences section of this issue of the CEAL Bulletin.

Following the formal presentations, the floor was opened for questions and comments.
Diane Perushek (Princeton) asked whether any of the speakers could comment on future developments for including East Asian vernacular items in online public catalogs. Karen Smith-Yoshimura responded that vendors for the online catalogs should request the extra development work needed to add the East Asian character code and a character generator in their systems and mentioned that not much effort would be required at this point in time. Jack Cain agreed that it depends upon the vendors of the local systems. He added that Udas is now working on developing a Chinese version of their system. Andrew Wang said that two actual cases are now in negotiation with OCLC. Both institutions are willing to modify the software of their local systems. The main problem is selection of a terminal to display the characters. In the past year OCLC has enhanced its CJK software to include an option for dial access. One could use an OCLC CJK terminal to dial into the local system and display the characters included in the CJK records. There has been much progress in Asia recently in the area of online public access catalogs which might have relevance in the United States.

The discussion then turned to a petition submitted by Sungha Kim (Harvard). More than 10% of the membership had already signed the petition which concerns representation of Korean studies librarians on the CEAL Executive Group. In the past the only representative from this constituency at the Executive Group meeting has been the chair of the Subcommittee on Korean Materials who is not a voting member of the Group. Mr. Kim proposed a change in the CEAL bylaws to provide better representation. He suggested that, there not being enough time for a full discussion and vote at the meeting, the new chairperson of CEAL tackle this matter in the coming year. Richard Howard (Library of Congress) said that he felt uncomfortable about instituting a quota system and made some alternative proposals: 1) the CEAL Subcommittee chairs could become full-fledged members of the Executive Group, thereby including some representation from Korean interests on every Executive Group, 2) the composition of the CEAL Executive Group could be altered to include only the CEAL chairperson and the chairs of the subcommittees. Yong Kyu Choo (Berkeley) suggested that an expression of support for the basic idea of Korean representation should be made from the members present at the meeting. Eugene Wu (Harvard) expressed the need for further study and deliberation. Also he mentioned that other matters in the existing bylaws need to be investigated and recommended that the Executive Group look into the whole matter and bring a proposal to the next plenary session for a vote. Karl Lo then made a proposal, first asking the consent of Mr. Kim and those who signed the petition, that the new chairperson appoint a group to study the issue and other related matters and include a discussion of it (and probably a vote) in the agenda of the next meeting. Following that he transferred the Seal of CEAL to Thomas Lee and concluded the meeting.

(Maureen H. Donovan)

III. Report of the Subcommittee on Chinese Materials

The 1988 annual meeting of the Subcommittee on Chinese Materials was held in Parlor 6 of the Hilton Hotel and Towers, San Francisco on March 25 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. About 100 persons attended the meeting.

This year's agenda included a series of reports and an address on current publishing in China by Yuan Qi, the Vice-President of the China National Publishing Industry Trading Corporation of Beijing (CNPITC).

Dr. Richard Howard of the Library of Congress reported on the tour of an East Asian librarian's group organized by James Cheng of the University of California-Los Angeles in July 1987. (See the report below in the Special Reports section.)
Mr. Dean Li, manager of the World Journal Bookstore, Los Angeles, reported on the United Daily News Group's publishing activities in Taiwan and the Group's distribution network in North America. (See Mr. Li's remarks below in the Special Reports section.)

Dr. Jason Parker of the American Council of Learned Societies reported on the proposed sale of the University Service Center Library in Hong Kong. (We recently learned that the Library was acquired by the Chinese University of Hong Kong.)

Dr. Ping-feng Chi, director of the Center for Chinese Research Materials, reported briefly about the Center's current activities.

A lengthy address was given in Chinese by Mr. Yuan Qi on current publishing activities in the People's Republic of China and the function of the CNPITC. (This address is reported in CEAL Bulletin no. 84 (June 1988) in an English translation by Antony Marr of Yale University.)

The chairperson, Paul Cheng, reported on the current membership of the Subcommittee: Shui-yim Tse, University of British Columbia; Yeen-mei Wu Chang, University of Washington; James Cheng, University of California-Los Angeles; Chester Wang, University of Wisconsin; William Sheh Wong, University of Illinois; and Antony Marr, Yale University.

(Paul Cheng)

IV. Report of the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials

The subcommittee meeting was held in Parlor 6 of the San Francisco Hilton Hotel and Towers on March 26, 1988 from 8:00-9:00 a.m.

New subcommittee members were introduced: Mihoko Miki (UCLA), Kenji Niki (Columbia), Eizaburo Okuizumi (Chicago), and Mariko Shimomura (Princeton).

Mr. Eugene Carvalho (Kansas) reported that the proposal for the "Research Fellowship Program for Japanese Librarians" did not receive funding from the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. He described the process he had gone through for this project.

Activities of the new subcommittee during the past year were reported upon by Yasuko Makino (Illinois). The subcommittee had prepared two grant proposals for the Japanese librarians' tour of libraries in Japan. Grant proposals were submitted to the Japan Foundation and to the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission. The details, objectives, and method of the tour were then explained.

Next came the reports of regional activities. Mr. Niki (Columbia) reported on the East Coast Japanese Librarians' Conference held in June 1987 at Princeton University. It was attended by twenty-nine librarians from twenty-three institutions. Funded by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, the conference was planned by the East Coast Consortium. (See the report in CEAL Bulletin no. 83.) The East Coast Consortium held a meeting in January 1988. The problem of serials control in the light of the weakened U.S. dollar and shared acquisitions were the main topics discussed at that meeting.

Mr. Okuizumi (Chicago) reported on the activities in the Midwest Consortium. In his report he announced the publication of A Union List of Current Japanese Language Journals in East Asian Libraries in the Midwest, compiled by Yasuko Makino (Illinois), and mentioned the updating effort of this title being made by the University of Chicago.
Mrs. Emiko Moffitt (Hoover) reported on West Coast activities for Mr. Eiji Yutani (UC Berkeley). Her report included the ongoing effort of compiling the union list of Japanese serials held at Hawaii, UCLA, UC Berkeley, Washington, Hoover, and British Columbia with Ms. Miki (UCLA) as the compiler; the second conference of the West Coast Japanese Librarians sponsored by the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission, held November 13-14, 1987 at Berkeley and attended by thirty-two librarians from eighteen institutions; and the library panel at the Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast annual meeting. The details of this meeting were written by Mrs. Teruko K. Chin (Washington) and appear in CEAL Bulletin no. 84.

(Yasuko Makino)

V. Report of the Subcommittee on Korean Materials

The subcommittee meeting was held in the Cypress Room of the San Francisco Hilton Hotel and Towers on March 24, 1988 from 8:30-10:00 p.m. The chairperson opened with an introduction of those newly attending these annual meetings; he then explained and informed the audience about the following topics and issues to be taken up at the present meeting. 1) On the proposal for the amendments to the existing procedures of CEAL, which we introduced at the plenary session of the annual CEAL meeting this year, we expect that no quick resolution for this petition would be forthcoming, but we should be satisfied that this subcommittee has, at least, expressed concern for the representation of Korean interests on the Executive Group of CEAL. 2) Turning to the pending issue of the compilation of the Union List of Korean Serials in Major Collecting Centers in the U.S., we have to proceed with this compilation without the participation of the Library of Congress since their holdings list will not be available in the near future. All the participating libraries should be sending their updated holdings lists, including all retrospective items. 3) There are two individuals who could help us in purchasing Korean language materials published in China, especially from the Yen-pien area. They are Professor You Fu Huang of the Central Institute of Nationalities and Professor Xusheng Wei of Beijing University, both located in Peking.

Following the chairperson's report and the ensuing discussion, Mr. Eugene Chai, Korean Curator at the Starr East Asian Library, Columbia University, explained briefly the progress being made on his compilation of An Annotated Bibliography of Korean Reference Books. He hopes that he can finish it by the time the next annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies convenes. His preliminary draft showed some 100 titles in the categories of general bibliographies, encyclopedias, and dictionaries. He said that he would perhaps add another 100 titles to this list and would include a subject index at the end. Mrs. Joy Kim of the University of Southern California reported on her project: Subject Lists Related to Korea. She also expects to finish it by the time of the next subcommittee meeting. Amy Tsiang of UCLA's Oriental Library informed us that UCLA has been designated by the South Korean government as one of the government-supported depository libraries.

(Sungha Kim)

VI. Report of the Subcommittee on Technical Processing

The annual meeting of the Subcommittee on Technical Processing was held on March 24 in the Cypress Room of the San Francisco Hilton Hotel and Towers from 2:00-5:00 p.m. About eighty persons attended. A series of reports was given during the meeting.

Philip Melzer, Senior Descriptive Cataloger of the Chinese and Korean Languages Section of the Library of Congress (LC), gave the first report on some rules of cataloging Korean materials. He
also answered the questions about the latest cataloging practices that he received prior to the meeting. Since there is a policy of interpretation of cataloging rules at LC, he encouraged the participants to write directly to its descriptive and subject cataloging divisions for further answers. (See the article in What's New in Technical Processing in this issue which deals with some of the questions asked.)

The second report, delivered by Doris Seely, Cataloger at the East Asian Library, University of Minnesota, was about her six-month working experience at the Research Libraries Group as Visiting Associate. To assist the East Asian Program Officer and CJK Specialist, she worked on testing the CJK thesaurus, preparing the agendas for the RLG East Asian Studies Program Committee and the Subcommittee on East Asian Cataloging. The most challenging job she encountered was the compilation of a list of East Asian exclusionary words for the RLIN bibliographic field for publication, distribution, etc.

Amy Tsiang, Head of the Chinese Division, Richard C. Rudolph Oriental Library, UCLA, gave the last report on the agenda about her experience in using OCLC/CJK for online cataloging. In general, she was satisfied with the system and considered it an improvement in library service in cataloging, searching, and card production in spite of its technical problems in some areas. (See the Articles section above.) After the report, questions about OCLC/CJK and RLG/CJK were asked by the participants and answered mostly by Andrew Wang, Program Director, Asian/Pacific Services at OCLC and Karen Smith-Yoshimura, RLG East Asian Program Officer and CJK Specialist. To conclude the meeting, the chairperson appealed to OCLC and RLG for cooperation between these two organizations.

The Subcommittee business meeting was held in the same room immediately afterwards. The topics for discussion included the compilation of lists of LC subject headings on China and Korea, and "What's New in Technical Processing" in the CEAL Bulletin.

(Mark Tam)

VII. Report of the Subcommittee on Library Technologies

The subcommittee convened its annual meeting in Parlor 6 of the San Francisco Hotel and Towers on March 27, 9:00-10:00 a.m. In the absence of the chairperson, Margaret Fung, who could not attend, the former chairperson, Karl Lo, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Lo proposed to the 100 to 150 members attending that they participate in a discussion about the technology for loading data of East Asian language (CJK) characters from a network data base to a local system in an academic library.

Karl Lo prefaced the discussion with a detailed explanation of how the binary-code bibliographical record is moved from the data base and passed into and then out of the channel of communication linking the central data base with the end terminal. Because the hardware and software for this transfer of information is built to handle English-language (or Western-language) information, the 3-byte CJK characters require special modifications be made within the local system before these characters can be displayed on the terminal screen. With the explanation completed, Mr. Lo then called upon the members in attendance to discuss means that would circumvent the problem of an expensive modification of the end terminal architecture. Several members commented upon the problem.

Mr. Lo also reported that the University of Washington has already begun the necessary implementation on the Geac system. Members expressed great interest by participating in the
discussion of the University of Washington experience. At the end of the discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

(Karl Lo)